

We claim:

1.

A standard for supporting a game net above a playing surface, comprising:  
an elongated net support having upper and lower end portions and an interior portion;  
a tensioning screw having a long axis rotatably secured within the interior portion of said  
net support;  
means for selectively rotating said tensioning screw disposed adjacent said tensioning  
screw; and  
a tensioning nut operatively secured to said tensioning screw within the interior portion  
of said net support so that said tensioning nut travels along the long axis of said  
tensioning screw in response to said tensioning screw being rotated;  
said tensioning nut being operatively connected to the game net to selectively apply  
tension to the net.

2.

The standard of claim 1 further comprising an elongated housing having upper  
and lower end portions and an open interior portion; said housing being substantially  
disposed beneath the playing surface and sized to telescopically receive said net  
support at least substantially within the interior portion of said housing.

3.

The standard of claim 2 further comprising an elongated lower support having  
upper and lower end portions and an interior portion; said lower support being  
operatively coupled to said housing so that said lower support can be telescopically

1 moved within and outwardly from the interior portion of said housing, between extended  
and retracted positions; said lower support further being sized to telescopically receive  
said net support at least substantially within the interior portion of said lower support.

4.

5 The standard of claim 3 further comprising a base assembly operatively coupled  
to the upper end portion of said housing and the playing surface.

5.

10 The standard of claim 4 wherein said base assembly is provided with a lock lug  
which is selectively movable in a transverse direction toward and away from said lower  
support.

6.

15 The standard of claim 5 wherein said lower support is provided with means  
between the upper and lower end portions of said lower support for selectively  
engaging said lock lug to maintain an extended or retracted position and prevent  
unwanted telescopic movement of said lower support with respect to said housing.

7.

20 The standard of claim 6 wherein said means for selectively engaging said lock  
lug is positioned along the length of said lower support between the upper and lower  
end portions of said lower support to define a plurality of pre-set heights of the standard  
with respect to the playing surface.

8.

1           The standard of claim 3 further comprising means for locking said net support in  
an extended position with respect to said lower support.

9.

5           The standard of claim 3 further comprising power means for generating pressure  
within said housing to selectively extend said lower support from within said housing  
and extend said net support from within said lower support.

10.

10          The standard of claim 9 wherein the pressure generated by said power means  
provides a cushion for selectively and gradually retracting said net support into said  
lower support said lower support into said housing and extending.

11.

15          The standard of claim 6 further comprising a lever operatively coupled with said  
lock lug so that said lock lug can be selectively moved into and out of engagement with  
said means for engaging said lock lug.

12.

20          The standard of claim 1 further comprising attachment means for releasably  
coupling a lower portion of the net to said net support.

13.

25          The standard of claim 12 wherein said attachment means is comprised of a  
keyhole formed in said net support that releasably receives a shaped coupling member  
operatively coupled to said lower portion of the net.

14.

1           The standard of claim 12 wherein said attachment means is provided with a  
tensioning ratchet to provide supplemental tension to the net.

15.

5           The standard of claim 1 wherein said net support is disposed at an angle from  
the perpendicular with respect to the playing surface prior to applying tension to the net.

16.

10           A standard for supporting a game net above a playing surface, comprising:  
an elongated net support having upper and lower end portions and an interior portion;  
tensioning means disposed within the interior portion of said net support and operatively  
coupled with the net for selectively applying tension to the net; and  
means for selectively actuating said tensioning means.

17.

15           The standard of claim 16 further comprising an elongated housing having upper  
and lower end portions and an open interior portion; said housing being substantially  
disposed beneath the playing surface and sized to telescopically receive said net  
support at least substantially within the interior portion of said housing.

18.

20           The standard of claim 17 further comprising an elongated lower support having  
upper and lower end portions and an interior portion; said lower support being  
operatively coupled to said housing so that said lower support can be telescopically  
moved within and outwardly from the interior portion of said housing, between extended

1 and retracted positions; said lower support further being sized to telescopically receive  
said net support at least substantially within the interior portion of said lower support.

19.

5 The standard of claim 18 further comprising means for selectively positioning  
said net support at one of a plurality of pre-set heights above the playing surface.

20.

10 The standard of claim 19 further comprising power means for generating  
pressure within said housing to selectively extend said lower support from within said  
housing and extend said net support from within said lower support; said power means  
provides a cushion for selectively and gradually retracting said net support into said  
lower support said lower support into said housing and extending.

21.

15 The standard of claim 16 further comprising attachment means for releasably  
coupling a lower portion of the net to said net support.